

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF RENEE SPAAR

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2022*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Ms. Renee Spaar and recognize her for the tremendous work achieved in the Odessa community. Renee loved her community and would stop at nothing to help the people within it. She truly was an amazing person to work with and a pioneer in education for the Odessa School District and school districts throughout Lafayette County, Missouri.

Her career began after graduating from Southwest Missouri State University in 1982 at The Odessan, where she would go on to develop the Newspapers in Education program. Through this program Renee was able to link real-world experiences to the classroom, promote lifelong learning, and develop reading habits by advancing the use of a newspaper in the classroom to promote literacy for kids across the Odessa area. Additionally, she was one of the founding members of the Odessa Outreach, an organization created to help serve and fund local non-profits in the area who need assistance. Renee's life will be remembered for her passion for education and outstanding work for everyone in her city. She always found a way to overcome any difficulties she faced in her long, dedicated career to service, and in doing so remained positive no matter what.

Renee was loved by many and in return loved all that she encountered. She was described by her peers as always having a bright smile on her face, a joke to tell, and uplifting for those who needed it. She was an enjoyable person to be around and would light up every room she walked into. We should all strive to be as happy, loving, and gracious as Renee was in her admirable 61 years of living. She will be deeply missed, but her long-lasting impact and legacy will live on for years to come. I would like to offer my condolences to all that knew Renee and her loving family and remember her for the outstanding work she did for the Odessa community. May her memory be a blessing.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE INAUGURATION OF BAY PATH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SANDRA J. DORAN

#### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2022*

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sandra Doran on being inaugurated as the sixth president of Bay Path University in Longmeadow,

Massachusetts. As Bay Path marks their 125th anniversary, I could not think of a more appropriate platform to celebrate the inauguration of President Doran.

Over the past 18 years, President Doran's experience in academics has culminated in her becoming a leader in higher education. Most recently, President Doran served as President of Salem Academy and College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the nation's oldest women's college. In just two years, President Doran helped develop and implement a plan to bring financial stability to Salem College, while transforming their academic programs to educate future generations of female leaders. Prior to beginning her academic career in 2004, President Doran worked in the private sector for 18 years, building a unique skillset that will serve her well in her new position at Bay Path.

In 1897, Bay Path University was founded upon the ideals of providing career-focused educational programs and providing students with the resources needed to affect real change in their communities. Offering 71 all-women undergraduate programs, and 33 co-educational graduate programs, Bay Path prides itself on empowering its diverse student body of more than 3,000 students to help women close the wage gap and stem the cycle of poverty. President Doran has demonstrated her commitment to these fundamental issues throughout her career, and that is why I am confident she will be a strong leader and outspoken advocate as Bay Path begins a new era in the institution's history.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate President Doran on being inaugurated as the sixth president of Bay Path University. Bay Path is a cherished institution in Massachusetts' First District, and I wish their faculty, staff, student body, and new president, Sandra Doran, many more years of success and prosperity.

### IN RECOGNITION OF 2022 CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EXCELLENCE RAY PICARD AWARD RECIPIENT NORMA JEAN VALDEZ

#### HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2022*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Norma Jean Valdez.

As Senior Management Analyst with the Los Alamos County Fire Department (LACFD), Ms. Valdez has demonstrated a deep commitment to public safety through her work on fire accreditation.

Our state is all too familiar with the devastation that fires can cause. Ms. Valdez's work is so important for keeping New Mexicans and their property safe.

Ms. Valdez's leadership in the fire and emergency service is well-recognized among her colleagues and community.

This leadership earned her the 2022 Center for Public Safety Excellence Ray Picard Award.

I would also like to recognize the historic nature of Ms. Valdez's selection as the first civilian, woman, Hispanic, and New Mexican to ever receive this prestigious award.

Ms. Valdez's work is commendable, and I'm proud to represent such a dedicated public servant in Congress. I join the Los Alamos community in congratulating her on this incredible accomplishment.

### IN RECOGNITION OF COMMANDER RUSS NORRIS

#### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2022*

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker. I rise today in recognition of Commander Russ Norris's dedicated service to his country. Commander Norris served in the U.S. Marine Corps for more than 22 years and brought his spirit of service home, maintaining active participation and leadership with Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander Norris has gone above and beyond the call of duty in his service to his country, as in addition to the many milestones of Marine Corps training, he has achieved over a dozen advanced certifications. These include completing the Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management's Security Cooperation course, and the Commanders Responsibility Course. Amongst his many accolades, Russ earned the Korean Defense Service Medal, was selected to be a Staff Sergeant (E-6) and became a commissioned officer. Norris rose to the rank of Major and served at the highest echelons of the US military, before retiring in 2011.

Commander Norris currently holds a B.A. in Government & International Studies, a master's degree in Operations Science and, while serving as Commander at the Post for Veterans of Foreign Wars, is pursuing his Doctorate.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I would like to thank Commander Russ Norris for his service and wish him the best in his work toward the completion of his degree.

### RECOGNIZING AUTISM AFTER 21 DAY

#### HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2022*

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 21 as national "Autism After 21 Day". As many of my colleagues know, April is Autism Acceptance Month, so it is fitting and crucial that we take a moment today

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